

Sachem Central School District

Sagamore Middle School

August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer. The custodians, clerical and other staff members have worked hard all summer to prepare the building for a new school year, and we thank them for all their efforts! The faculty and staff are excited to welcome students back and to have our hallways filled with the excitement and positive energy a new school year brings. A new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings – new classes, new faces, and new courses. Additionally, we will continue to focus on making our school mission the core of our daily work with all students.

The first day of school for all students will be on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Our school hours are 7:50 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. (Periods 1-9). Student schedules for grades 7 and 8 will be posted on the portal September 1st at 3 p.m. A copy of the bell schedule follows this letter and is posted on the website. The first day of school is an “A” day. Students should bring a copy of their schedule with them on their first day of class and have it in their hands as they enter the building that morning. Their schedule will serve as their ID to enter the building. During homeroom on the first day, students will be given an ID card and a lanyard. Each middle school has a new ID system that will require students to swipe their ID card at a kiosk as they enter the building each day, so it is important students wear their ID card every day. This will be necessary in order to align with our safety and security procedures and Board of Education Policy. If students misplace or lose their ID, they can obtain a new one for \$5.00. It is important for students to adhere to this protocol.

Students will be permitted to use their hall locker at the beginning, middle, and end of the day. When students enter each morning, they should go to their locker and pack for their morning schedule. Midday, they should switch out their items for the afternoon and only go back to their locker at the end of the day to pack up and go home. Students are permitted to use string bags or reasonably-sized backpacks that fit in the bin under the desk (12 inches by 7 inches). No backpacks are allowed in the classroom aisles. Students will also have access to their gym locker this year, so they will need a change of clothes when participating in physical education. Students will receive their gym locker combination during their PE class.

When students enter the building on the first day of school, they will report directly to Period 1. The Student Handbook will be discussed during the week of September 6th with all students. A copy of the Handbook can be found on the webpage. Please read and discuss all information with your child. Students will be responsible for reading and following all District Policies during the school year.

We encourage all our students to get involved and join as many clubs as they can. Club information will be posted on the website and a monthly calendar of meeting dates will be posted on the main page as well.

As a reminder, cell phones, AirPods, and headphones are not permitted during school hours. Any student who has a cell phone in school must have it turned off. We provide a telephone in the main office and guidance office exclusively for student use. As an exception, any student who does not feel comfortable using the phone in the main office may use their cell phone to call home from the main office only. Additionally, we remind students that in order to use the phone, they must have permission from their teacher. All students should have their Chromebook from last year and should bring it with them on the first day of school. Any new student to the building will receive theirs on Wednesday, September 6th. Each student will be responsible for having their Chromebooks charged and ready each day.

www.sachem.edu



Principal
Lisa Johnson

Assistant Principals
Ralph Carusillo
Kayleigh Sidaras

*Superintendent of
Schools*
Christopher J.
Pellettieri, Ed.D.

57 Division Street
Holtsville, NY 11742
631.696.8600



#WeAreSachem



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If you need to bring something to your child while they are in school, you can leave the item(s) in the security vestibule. Also, if you need to pick your child up from school for any reason, you must have valid identification with you. No student will be released without proper identification and the person's name listed in eschool. The information on the emergency listing in eschool should be updated as needed.

Our lunch and breakfast program will be available for all students. For the last several years, breakfast and lunch were free, but the program through the National School Lunch Program has ended. If you are in need of support, please complete the form using the following [link](#).

All students entering the 7th grade must have received the Meningitis vaccine and have provided documentation to the health office prior to September 6, 2023. Please note that students will not be permitted to remain in school without the proper documentation. Also, all 6th grade students who will be 11 years old prior to September 6, 2023, must have received the Tdap vaccine or have a note with an appointment (within two weeks of their birthday) to receive the vaccine on file in the health office. Students that still need a 2nd Varicella or a Polio booster vaccine are also required to receive these vaccines or provide a doctor's note with a pending appointment date. If your child is 11 years old, all pending appointment dates should not exceed September 15, 2023. Students without proper documentation will not be permitted to remain in school.

Your child's bus number can be found under the "Bus" tab on the portal. Students are not permitted to take any bus other than the one assigned. This is for health and safety reasons. Please remember, the school bus is an extension of school, and all school rules apply at the bus stop and on the bus. All parent drop-offs and pick-ups will take place on the side of the building. The doors will open for all students at 7:40 a.m., so parents are encouraged to not drop off their child prior to that time. No student may be dropped off in the bus designated areas. We ask for your full cooperation in order to guarantee that all students are safe as they enter and leave school each day. This route will also allow for a smoother traffic flow in the morning as well as in the afternoon. If you plan on picking up your child at the end of the school day, please park in the designated parent pick up spots. Please do not park in the parking lot, but park along the curb in the outlined parking spots. Please note that cars will not be permitted to leave school until all buses have departed from the building. This will ensure safety for all students. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

All students are expected to be in school on time each day. Good attendance is important and sets the standard for good habits. If your child is absent from school, please call the attendance office the morning of the absence. A written absence note is required when your child returns to school.

As we continue to work with students each day, our staff is dedicated to the growth of every child by assisting them with developing a positive self-image, a strong desire for learning, and a sense of respect for self and others.

We look forward to seeing the students next week. Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sincerely yours,

Lisa Johnson
Principal

Gemma Salvia
Principal
Sagamore Middle School Seneca Middle School

Dr. Georgia Afxendiou
Principal
Samoset Middle School

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